

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 11, 15, 20, 26-27, 29-33 have been amended. No claims have been added. Claim 10 has been canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vellandi. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-33 as amended are not obvious in view of Vellandi. As set forth in the claims, the present invention sets forth the use of tokens when determining if a copy of the requested reference material is available. Specifically, the present invention as claimed determines if a server has possession of a token corresponding to the requested reference material as a way to determine if requested reference material is available. Upon determining the server has the token, the token is passed, typically to the requester.

Vellandi does not disclose the use of such tokens. The Examiner believes that the tokens of the present invention may be equated with the cookies described in Vellandi. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The use of tokens is different than cookies in Vellandi. In the present invention as claimed, the possession of the token indicates who has possession of the material. That is, the server that has the document, holds the token and when the server gives the document to a requester, it sends the token as well. Thus, the server need only check whether it has the token to determine if it can pass the document to a requester. In Vellandi, cookies are assigned by the server and sent to subscribers. The subscribers then send their requests for the document with the cookie in order to gain access to the document. Thus, Vellandi uses the cookies to determine if the person requesting a document is allowed to view it, not whether the server has a copy of the document. In view of this, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention as claimed is not obvious in view of Vellandi.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 13, the sending of a client side agent is not the same as sending a cookie. In Vellandi, the requester always sends back the cookie to the server when making the request for a document. Thus, if a cookie is the same as the client side agent, then the requester would have to send back the client side agent every time when making a request. This is clearly not disclosed in Vellandi. In view of this, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention as claimed in Claim 13 is not obvious in view of Vellandi.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome by the amendments and the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that Claims 1-9, and 11-33 as amended are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

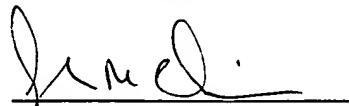
Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Michael J. Mallie
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 36,591

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8598

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 22, 1996


Angela M. Quinn
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